

(b) Required information in respect of tea estates registered with the tea Board is as follows:

S.No.	Plantation Distt.	No. of tea Estates (*)	Production * (in million kgs.)
1.	North Dinajpur	17	1.02
2.	Coochbehar	01	0.44
3.	Dooars (including Jalpaiguri)	167	127.55
4.	Darjeeling	88	11.29

* Estimated for the year 1996.

Provision of Loan to Textile Industry

23. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank has instructed financial institutions and bank to provide loans to cotton textile mills for making payments towards voluntary retirement scheme aimed at rationalisation of workforce and modernisation of the industry; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial Institutions are examining the issue and have yet to decide on the implementation of these instructions.

[Translation]

SBI Jabalpur

24. SHRI DADA BABU RAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of State Bank of India, Jabalpur staged a demonstration in respect of their various demands; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that workmen employees resorted to demonstrations during lunch hour at Jabalpur for few days in January, 1997 in respect of various demands. The demands, *inter alia*, related to various service conditions of the workmen employees. However, the agitation has been withdrawn following a settlement with the staff federation of the bank.

Scheduled Tribes in PSUs

25. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister or INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled Tribe candidates recruited in the Public Sector Undertakings in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last two years till date; and

(b) the scheme formulated for the recruitment of such persons in each Public Sector Undertaking during the year 1997-98 and the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Banking Companies/Banks

26. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private banking companies/banks functioning in the country;

(b) the number of the private banking companies/banks which have submitted the proposals for making investment or setting up private sector banks in India, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to give permission and recognition to such banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the guidelines issued by the RBI to regulate the working of these banks; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to vigil on these banks ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are 37 private sector banks incorporated in India functioning in the country

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not received any proposal from private banking companies/banks for making investment or setting up of private sector banks in India.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

U.P. Spinning Mills

27. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spinning mills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Uttranchal area are not functioning properly and have been declared sick; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for revival of those mills and to save the interests of the workers of those mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) As per information furnished by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), there were 35 textile mills in Uttar Pradesh registered with the BIFR as on 31.1.97. Out of these 7 cases of mills have been dismissed as non-maintainable, 3 mills have been declared no longer sick, 18 mills have been recommended for winding up, and rehabilitation schemes have been sanctioned in the case of 2 mills.

(b) Government has set up the BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills. Government has set up Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent/ partial closure of mills.

[English]

Basic Minimum Services

28. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the basic minimum services announced and subsequently approved by the Government;

(b) the amount spent on those programmes so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to continue the programmes pertaining to these basic minimum services during the Ninth Plan period, and

(d) if so, the fund reserved therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The seven basic minimum services identified by the Chief Ministers Conference held on 4-5th July, 1996 and approved by the Government are :

- (i) 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.
- (ii) 100 per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.
- (iii) Universalisation of primary education.
- (iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
- (v) Extension of Mid-day Meal Programme in primary schools, to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.
- (vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
- (vii) Streamlining the Public Distribution System targeted to families below the poverty line.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1690.42 crore has been released to States/UTs so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A sum of Rs. 2466 crore has been allocated to States/UTs in the 1996-97 budget in addition to the provisions already made in the Annual Plans of States/ UTs for these seven identified Basic Minimum Services. Out of this Rs. 250 crore was allocated for slum improvement programmes.

Liberalisation of Gold Import Scheme

29. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI.

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have further liberalised the gold import policy recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of liberalisation on the domestic prices of gold; and

(d) the quantity and value of gold imported in the country since the new scheme put in operation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Government has increased the limit of gold which can be imported by a Non-Resident Indian from 5 kgs. to 10 kgs. by issuing a Notification No. 1/97-Cus. dated 1.1.1997, subject to payment of customs duty at Rs. 220/- per 10 gms. in foreign exchange.

(c) It has been reported that the price of gold in domestic market has come down by about Rs. 120/- per 10 gms. after the increase in the ceiling.

(d) 49.86 tons of gold valued at Rs. 1908.34 crores has been imported from 1.1.1997 to 15.2.1997.

Per Capita Grant to States

30. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the per capita Central grant given to each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period alongwith amount provided;

(b) the criterion fixed for providing Central grants; and

(c) the Central loans outstanding against each State at the end of 1995-96 and estimated to be at the end of 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.